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Upper Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.20

Well a narrow view of this quotation is that you need to have good manners or you won’t get far in life … Good manners meaning the kind that we teach our children: you know the kind of thing – don’t talk with your mouth full; don’t interrupt when grown-ups are speaking; don’t point or stare at people; don’t slouch or chew gum; don’t wear clothes that are inappropriate or offensive; in a nutshell, be polite, well-behaved and show courtesy to others.

But I think what William of Wykeham really meant is that each society creates its own code of behaviour and customs, and that is what makes people what they are. So each culture defines itself by the way it behaves socially – how we eat, how we dress, how we celebrate, how we interact with one another. In fact, the different ways we all find of doing essentially the same things.